



Pictured: Detective Mark King, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office & SWAT Commander
Photo By: D. Patrick Harding, Chattanooga Times & Free Press

Law enforcement agencies in 8 rural counties in Southeast Tennessee will soon have a SWAT Team funded by Homeland Security. These SWAT teams, also known as, containment teams, will be made of officers from Rhea, Marion, Sequatchie, Polk, McMinn, Bledsoe, Grundy and Meigs counties. Officials say these SWAT teams will be in operation by summer of 2006. Officials also mention this is the first multi-jurisdictional team under the umbrella of Homeland Security in the nation.

Homeland Security provided funds of \$500,000 and will be spent on 4 vans and equipment to outfit the officers on the team. Detective Mark King, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office and SWAT Commander explained it will cost about \$3,000 to supply each team member with helmets, bulletproof vests, a specialized headset for communications, fatigues and an equipment belt. Detective King is providing the training at no charge to these surrounding 8 rural counties. King has already held a 30-hour training course for officers from Sequachie County.

Detective King said there are differences between this containment team and a SWAT Team. This "containment team" will build a perimeter, contain the threat, observe the suspect and provide intelligence. A SWAT Team, such as, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, has specialized training and equipment to bring into play, like sharpshooters, less-than-lethal weapons and munitions.

